

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of covering a pot, comprising:  
providing a pot having an upper end, a lower end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner retaining space, and a maximum diameter;  
providing a decorative preformed sleeve initially having a flattened condition and comprising a body having a tapered shape and having an upper end, a lower end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface, an inner diameter, and having a pot containing portion, and wherein the inner diameter exceeds the maximum diameter of the pot by at least about 10 percent;  
opening the decorative preformed sleeve and disposing the pot within the pot containing portion of the opened decorative preformed sleeve wherein the upper end of the decorative preformed sleeve is positioned adjacent a lower portion of a floral grouping disposed within the pot such that the floral grouping is not enclosed by the sleeve; and  
applying a banding element about a portion of the decorative preformed sleeve to secure the decorative preformed sleeve about the pot.

2. (Cancel)

3. (Cancel)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 1 wherein, in the step of providing the decorative preformed sleeve, ~~the~~ an upper portion of the decorative preformed sleeve is adapted to support the body of the decorative preformed sleeve from a support assembly.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein, in the step of providing the decorative preformed sleeve, the decorative preformed sleeve ~~further~~ comprises a decorative skirt portion extending from the body.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the inner diameter is measured at a lower end of the decorative skirt portion.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein, in the step of providing the decorative preformed sleeve, the body of the decorative preformed sleeve further comprises a gusset in a lower portion thereof.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein, in the step of providing the decorative preformed sleeve, the decorative preformed sleeve further comprises a side gusset in the body.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 1 wherein, in the step of providing the decorative preformed sleeve, ~~the~~ an upper portion of the decorative preformed sleeve comprises a bonding material disposed ~~upon an upper end thereof for sealing the upper end of the upper portion or for attaching the upper portion to an upper portion of an adjacent decorative preformed sleeve in a pad or stack of decorative preformed sleeves~~ thereon.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein, in the step of applying a securing element, the securing element is selected from the group consisting of ties, strings, wires, ribbons, rubber bands, collars, rings, staples, and tapes.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein, in the step of applying a securing element, the securing element is applied to the decorative preformed sleeve at a position above the upper end of the pot.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein, in the step of applying the securing element, the securing element is applied to the decorative preformed sleeve at a position below the upper end of the pot.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein, in the step of applying securing element, the securing element is pre-attached to the decorative preformed sleeve before the pot is disposed within the decorative preformed sleeve.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the inner diameter of the decorative preformed sleeve is measured at the upper end of the body.

15. (Original) A plant package comprising a pot having a floral grouping disposed therein, the pot covered by a decorative preformed sleeve, the plant package produced by the method of claim 1.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of covering a pot, comprising:  
providing a pot having an upper end, a lower end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner retaining space, and a maximum diameter;  
providing a decorative preformed sleeve initially having a flattened condition and comprising a body having a tapered shape and

having an upper end, a closed, non-gusseted lower end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface, an inner diameter, and having a pot containing portion, and wherein the inner diameter exceeds the maximum diameter of the pot by at least about 10 percent;

opening the decorative preformed sleeve and disposing the pot within the pot containing portion of the opened decorative preformed sleeve wherein the upper end of the decorative preformed sleeve is positioned adjacent a lower portion of a floral grouping disposed within the pot such that the floral grouping is not enclosed by the sleeve; and

applying a securing element about a portion of the decorative preformed sleeve to secure the decorative preformed sleeve about the pot.

17. (Cancel)

18. (Cancel)

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~17~~ 16 wherein, in the step of providing the decorative preformed sleeve, ~~the~~ an upper portion of the

decorative preformed sleeve is adapted to support the body of the decorative preformed sleeve from a support assembly.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein, in the step of providing the decorative preformed sleeve, the decorative preformed sleeve ~~further~~ comprises a decorative skirt portion extending from the body.

21. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the inner diameter is measured at a lower end of the decorative skirt portion.

22. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein, in the step of providing the decorative preformed sleeve, the decorative preformed sleeve further comprises a side gusset in the body.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~17~~ 16 wherein, in the step of providing the decorative preformed sleeve, ~~the~~ an upper portion of the decorative preformed sleeve comprises a bonding material disposed ~~upon an upper end thereof for sealing the upper end of the upper portion or for attaching the upper portion to an upper portion of an adjacent decorative preformed sleeve in a pad or stack of decorative preformed sleeves~~ thereon.

24. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein, in the step of applying a securing element, the securing element is selected from the group consisting of ties, strings, wires, ribbons, rubber bands, collars, rings, staples, and tapes.

25. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein, in the step of applying a securing element, the securing element is applied to the decorative preformed sleeve at a position above the upper end of the pot.

26. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein, in the step of applying a securing element, the securing element is applied to the decorative preformed sleeve at a position below the upper end of the pot.

27. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein, in the step of applying a securing element, the securing element is pre-attached to the decorative preformed sleeve before the pot is disposed within the decorative preformed sleeve.

28. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the inner diameter of the decorative preformed sleeve is measured at the upper end of the body.

29. (Original) A plant package comprising a pot having a floral grouping disposed therein, the pot covered by a decorative preformed sleeve, the plant package produced by the method of claim 16.